

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, H.A.)

SUBJECT:COMBINED MEDIA REPORT - EVENING, MARCH 13

NO. 22

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

SUMMARY: STILL IN ASWAN, HAK GOES SIGHTSEEING WHILE EGYPT-
IANS STUDY POSSIBILITY OF A SINAI AGREEMENT. TOMORROW HE
TAKES LATEST EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS TO ISRAEL. END SUMMARY

WIRES

AP, SCHWEID, ASWAN: HAK WENT SIGHTSEEING WITH HIS WIFE
TO PHILAE WHILE TOP EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS STUDIED POSSIBILITY
OF IMPLEMENTING A SINAI AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL IN STAGES.

AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID HAK WAS TRYING FOR "A QUICK AGREE-
MENT", BUT ONE THAT COULD TAKE MONTHS OR EVEN YEARS TO
BECOME FULLY EFFECTIVE.

HAK CHECKED IN WITH SADAT TONIGHT TO HEAR HIS LATEST PRO-
POSALS. HE TAKES THEM FRIDAY TO ISRAEL.
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STAGED APPROACH IS VIEWED BY HAK AS A WAY TO OVERCOME BOTH
EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI RESERVATIONS.

ISRAELIS WOULD RETREAT UP TO 30 MILES IN SINAI BUT DELAY IN

GIVING UP STRATEGIC GIDI AND MITLA PASSES AND ABU RUDEIS.

SADAT WOULD BE ABLE TO MOVE SLOWLY IN GIVING TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF AN ACCOMMODATION WITH ISRAEL, A SITUATION CERTAIN TO DRAW FIRE FROM ARAB HARDLINERS.

U.S. OFFICIALS SAID A STAGED AGREEMENT, PRINCIPALLY A MILITARY PACT, WOULD BE SIGNED IN GENEVA, BUT CONSIDERATION OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS ON GOLAN HEIGHTS AND ON WEST BANK OF JORDAN RIVER WOULD BE POSTPONED.

SA8AT MET WITH FAHMY AND GAMASY, AFTERWARDS AN EGYPTIAN SPOKESMAN SAID TALKS WERE "VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY WILL SET PATTERN THAT EGYPT WILL FOLLOW DURING NEGOTIATIONS."

UPI, ASWAN: HAK SAID THURSDAY HE IS MAKING SLOW BUT DEFINITE PROGRESS IN WHAT A U.S. SPOKESMAN CALLED "SERIOUS AND COMPLICATED" TALKS WITH SADAT ON SECOND STAGE AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL.

AFTER DAY OF SIGHTSEEING HAK MET SADAT THURSDAY NIGHT FOR MORE TALKS BEFORE FLYING BACK TO ISRAEL FRIDAY BEARING EGYPTIAN LEADER'S LATEST POSITION ON A TROOP DISENGAGEMENT ACCORD.

WALKING AROUND PHILAE, HAK TOLD REPORTERS, "WE ARE GOING AHEAD SLOWLY ASEXPECTED,"ASKED IF THERE WERE PROGRESS, HE SAID: "DEFINITELY".

A KEY DISAGREEMENT STILL APPEARED TO BE OVER POLITICAL GUARANTEES FOR AN END TO STATE OF WAR...

AMERICAN OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT ONE POSSIBILITY IS THAT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL WILL BE PHASED OVER A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME TO PERMIT ISRAEL TO BUILD A NEW DEFENSE LINE BEHIND PASSES, AND THAT MAY IN SOME WAY BE LINKED WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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SECURITY GUARANTEES.

IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, EGYPTIAN GOVT SOURCES SAID SYRIA HAS URGED EGYPT THRU A THIRD UNNAMED ARAB PARTY TO PRESSURE HAK INTO TRYING TO NEGOTIATE A SECOND ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM GOLAN HEIGHTS, AS WELL AS FROM SINAI.

EGYPT IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE URGING HAK TO SEEK GOLAN HEIGHTS AGREEMENT ALONG WITH SINAI IN ORDER TO BLUNT ASSAD'S OPPOSITION TO HIS CURRENT PEACE EFFORTS.

NEWSPAPERS

LATIMES, RESTON, PAGE 16, ASWAN: HAK SAID WEDNESDAY BOTH

ISRAEL AND EGYPT ARE WORKING SERIOUSLY TOWARD NEW DIS-
ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IN SINAI.

HAK WHO HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO TALK ABOUT PROGRESS OF
NEGOTIATIONS LATELY, MADE HIS REMARK TO REPORTERS WHILE
FLYING FROM ISRAEL TO EGYPT....

"I THINK BOTH SIDES WANT AN AGREEMENT AND BOTH SIDES ARE
WORKING SERIOUSLY TOWARD AN AGREEMENT," HAK SAID.
"WHETHER IT IS POSSIBLE TO MATCH REQUIREMENTS OF TWO
SIDES, EVEN IF THEY BOTH WANT AN AGREEMENT, REMAINS TO
BE SEEN."

HAK'S REMARKS APPEARED TO INDICATE THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE
ON TRACK AND MOVING AT ABOUT PACE HAK EXPECTED. WHILE
ISRAELI SOURCES REMAIN SOMWHAT CAUTIOUS ABOUT CHANCES OF
SUCCESS, MOOD ON EGYPTIAN SIDE IS ONE OF OPEN OPTIMISM.

BEFORE HAK'S ARRIVAL, SADAT TOLD REPORTERS THAT THERE WAS
AT LEAST AN 80 PERCENT CHANCE THAT EGYPT AND ISRAEL WOULD
CONCLUDE A NEW INTERIM PEACE AGREEMENT.

...SECRETARY IS CARRYING ISRAELI "VIEWS, CONSIDERATIONS
AND REACTIONS" TO PUT BEFORE SADAT. BUT IT WAS UNDERSTOOD
THERE ARE NO SPECIFIC FORMAL PROPOSALS FROM ISRAELI SIDE
AT THIS POINT IN NEGOTIATIONS.

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...HAK FEELS HE WILL KNOW MORE PRECISELY DIMENSIONS OF
OBSTACLES IN WAY OF NEW PEACE SETTLEMENT AFTER HE CON-
CLUDES THIS SECOND ROUND OF SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY BETWEEN
ASWAN AND JERUSALEM. ...

CLEARLY THERE ARE MAJOR PROBLEMS... GREATEST DIFFICULTY,
ACCORDING TO RANKING U.S. OFFICIAL, REVOLVES AROUND
PUBLICLY STATED POSITIONS OF BOTH SADAT AND RABIN.

RABIN HAS SAID HIS COUNTRY MUST GET A CONCRETE, FORMAL
DECLARATION OF NON-BELLIGERENCY. SADAT HAS REPEATEDLY
REJECTED THAT IDEA.

ACCORDINGLY, HAK IS ATTEMPTING TO WORK OUT SOME COMPROMISE
.... HE BELIEVES PROBLEM IS SOLUBLE, BUT FEELS SOLUTION
MUST EVOLVE IN A WAY THAT WILL NOT CAUSE EITHER SIDE TO
BALK....

I;RAEL REPORTEDLY WANTS NOT ONLY A NON-AGGRESSION DECLARA-
TION, BUT ALSO A NUMBER OF OTHER STEPS THAT WOULD BEGIN
TO MOVE TWO COUNTRIES AWAY FROM DANGER OF SUDDEN WAR.

...GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE AIMED AT A FINAL PEACE SETTLE-

MENT IN ENTIRE ME AREA IS THOUGHT LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE THIS SPRING IF HAK MISSION IS SUCCESSFUL.

TELEVISION

1. ABC, SMITH/REASONER: REASONER (8 MINUTES INTO PROGRAM): HAK TOOK TIME OUT FROM HIS ME SHUTTLE TALKS TODAY TO DO SOME SIGHTSEEING. WHILE SECRETARY AND HIS WIFE TOURED TEMPLES OF PHILAE, EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI LEADERS CONTINUED STUDYING WAYS OF IMPLEMENTING A NEW SINAI AGREEMENT. ISRAEL'S CHIEF OF STAFF SAID TODAY THAT SYRIA HAS BEEN DIRECTING A BUILD-UP OF ARAB FORCES AND EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THERE COULD BE RENEWED FIGHTING ON ISRAEL'S NORTHERN FRONT WITH SYRIA.

2. NBC, CHANCELLOR: ISRAELI OFFICIALS SAID TODAY THEY HAVE TAKEN PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES BECAUSE THEY HAVE SPOTTED MOVEMENTS BY BOTH SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN MILITARY UNCLASSIFIED

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UNITS. IN EGYPT, PRESIDENT SADAT SAID HIS ARMY WAS NOT PLANNING AN OFFENSIVE.

3. CBS, MUDD (10 MINUTES INTO PROGRAM): HAK, STILL TRYING TO BROKER AN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI SINAI AGREEMENT, HAS BEGUN WHAT WERE DESCRIBED AS SERIOUS AND COMPLICATED TALKS WITH SADAT.

KALB: HAK TOLD NEWSMEN THAT HE HAD RETURNED TO ASWAN TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS. AND, IN ALMOST 3 HOURS OF TALKS LAST NIGHT WITH SADAT, HE DID JUST THAT. HE TOLD EGYPTIAN LEADER, A MODERATE AMONG ARABS, THAT ISRAEL WILL AGREE TO GIVE UP TWO STRATEGIC PASSES AND OIL FIELDS IN SINAI IN EXCHANGE FOR AN EXPLICIT PLEDGE OF NON-BELLIGERENCY. SADAT REJECTED NOTION OF AN EXPLICIT PLEDGE BUT ACCEPTED IDEA OF ISOLATING EVIDENCE OF NON-BELLIGERENCY AND TRYING TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THOSE. SO LONG AS FINAL ARRANGEMENT IS NOT DECLARED NON-BELLIGERENCY, SADAT SEEMED READY TO MAKE A DEAL, AND, IN HAK'S VIEW, SO TOO ARE ISRAELIS. THESE ARE SOME OF ELEMENTS: DEMILITARIZATION OF ALL AREAS EVACUATED BY ISRAELIS; A PUBLIC PROMISE TO OBSERVE CEASE-FIRE ON LAND, SEA, AND AIR; EXTENDING LIFE OF UN OBSERVER FORCE FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME; REDUCING ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WARFARE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES; AND OPENING SUEZ CANAL EVEN TO ISRAELI CARGO.

SO FAR THERE IS NO SOLID AGREEMENT ON THESE ELEMENTS BUT EXPLORATORY PHASE OF HAK'S EFFORTS IS CLEARLY OVER AND DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOW BEGUN. ONE THING IS ALREADY CLEAR: THE DEPTH OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL WILL BE DETERMINED BY DEGREE OF EGYPT'S COMMITMENT TO END LONG STATE OF WAR BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

RADIO

KALB, CBS RADIO (FIRST LINE REPT) FROM ASWAN-JERUSALEM
SHUTTLE, THURSDAY, MORNING, MARCH 13:

THE MIDDLE MAN IN THIS NEGOTIATION IS HAK OBVIOUSLY, BUT
MIDDLE MEN ARE THE 15 REPORTERS TRAVELING WITH HIM....

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THE 15 REPORTERS HAVE REALLY TURNED OUT TO BE MIDDLE MEN
BETWEEN PEOPLES AND OFFICIALS OF TWO COUNTRIES.... HAVE
REALLY BECOME INSTRUMENTS OF NEGOTIATION ITSELF USED BY
BOTH SIDES AND THE SECRETARY TO FURTHER THEIR OWN ENDS
AND HIS MIDDLE MAN EFFORT, THERE IS NO ESCAPE. REPORTERS
MUST DEAL WITH SOURCES TO GET INFORMATION AND SOURCES IN
THIS CASE HAPPEN TO BE HIGH EGYPTIAN, ISRAELI AND AMERICAN
OFFICIALS. SOURCES USE THE NEWSMEN JUST AS NEWSMEN USE
THE SOURCES. THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN CASE. BUT THESE HAK
SHUTTLES ARE DIFFERENT AND BASIC REASON THEY ARE DIFFERENT
IS THAT REPORTERS TRAVEL WITH SECRETARY, THEY ARE ON HIS
PLANE, THEY ARE CLOSE TO HIM, THEY ARE IN A WAY UNOFFICIAL
MEMBERS OF HIS ENTOURAGE.... THE EFFECT IS AN UNINTENDED
BLURRING OF LINE BETWEEN REPORTER AND OFFICIAL, AT LEAST
IN OUTSIDER'S PERCEPTION. REPORTER AND OFFICIAL KNOW
BETTER; EACH JEALOUSLY GUARDS HIS OWN PREROGATIVE, EACH
SERVES HIS OWN CONSTITUENCY. BUT TO OUTSIDER WHO SEES
REPORTER GETTING ON AND OFF HAK'S PLANE ALWAYS LOADED
WITH CHOSEN NUGGETS OF INFORMATION DISPENSED BY AN
UNNAMED HIGH AMERICAN OFFICIAL IT IS POSSIBLE TO LUMP
REPORTER AND OFFICIAL INTO SAME AMERICAN SACK AND OVER-
LOOK DISTINCTION BETWEEN TWO. WHEN A REPORTER ARRIVES
SAY IN ASWAN HE IS QUICKLY SURROUNDED BY HIS EGYPTIAN
COLLEAGUES WHO WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAK REALLY THINKS ABOUT
NEGOTIATION. WHEN REPORTER ARRIVES IN JERUSALEM HE IS
ALSO SURROUNDED BY HIS ISRAELI COLLEAGUES WHO WANT TO
KNOW SAME THING....OFFICIALS IN ISRAELI GOVT ALSO SEEK
OUT REPORTER TO FIND OUT NOT ONLY WHAT EGYPTIANS THINK
ABOUT NEGOTIATION BUT WHAT HAK REALLY SAYS IN PRIVATE
ABOUT NEGOTIATION, EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS. LIKEWISE
OFFICIALS IN EGYPTIAN GOVT QUITE HIGH UP LINE FIND SAME
REPORTER AND PUMP HIM FOR SAME INFO. THIS INTIMATE CROSS
FERTILIZATION OF INFO IS UNIQUE AND IT POSES PROBLEMS
AND OPPORTUNITY FOR REPORTER AND OFFICIAL, ESPECIALLY
IN MIDST OF A VERY DELICATE NEGOTIATION. A LEAK IN MOST
CASES CAN BE HARMLESS, A LEAK IN THIS CASE CAN MAKE OR
BREAK NEGOTIATION AND IT IS ALMOST ALWAYS VERY SELF-
SERVING. IT HAS BEEN QUITE A LESSON IN WHAT COULD BE
CALLED SHUTTLE-JOURNALISM. INGERSOLL

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